

July 21, 2006

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Congressman Dan Lungren, Representing California's Capital Region - 3rd District

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Dear Friends,

Thank you to all who participated in our most recent Town Hall meeting in Rio Vista. I always enjoy the opportunity to dialogue with you about pivotal issues affecting our Third Congressional District. During our time together, we discussed such pressing concerns as illegal immigration, flood control, rising energy costs, education, and other issues important to our community.

It is a great honor to serve you. I hope you are enjoying the summer months. If you are planning to visit Washington, DC in the near future, please visit our website at www.lungren.house.gov to schedule Congressional tours of monuments, museums and other historical places of interest in our nation's capital.

With the summer driving season in full swing, Americans are ever reminded of the need to find long-term energy solutions. Rising fuel costs, coupled with continued unrest in oil-producing nations, served as the impetus for a bill I introduced earlier this summer: the New Options Petroleum Energy Conservation Act of 2006, or NOPEC.

Eye on the Prize

NOPEC would reduce our dependence on foreign oil by providing incentives for greater fuel efficiency in addition to exploring alternate energy sources. One of the more innovative elements of the bill is the creation of a \$1 billion prize to the first automobile manufacturer incorporated in the United States to successfully manufacture a midsize sedan that operates on gasoline and can travel 100 miles per gallon.

There is a long history connecting important inventions with prize money. As Amory Lovins and E. Kyle Datta point out in *Winning the Oil Endgame*, the 1927 Orteig Prize for aviation was awarded to Charles Lindbergh for his flight over the Atlantic. In fact, the 1895 Great Chicago Car Race—relating to innovation rather than speed—played an important role in giving birth to the American automobile industry. Intuitively, this makes sense. Incentives to succeed tap into an aspect of human nature which brings out the

In your opinion, what are the three most pressing issues facing the 109th Congress at this time?

- ☐ Abortion
- ☐ Budget Issues
- ☐ Energy Costs
- ☐ Flood Protection
- ☐ Homeland Security
- ☐ Illegal Immigration
- ☐ Marriage Protection
- ☐ Stem Cell Research
- ☐ Voting Rights Act
- ☐ War on Terrorism

Here is your opportunity to ask questions of Congressman Lungren. We will post his responses to the most frequently asked questions in our next newsletter. Please submit your question in the space below.

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best in people.

Incentive for Innovation

Competition is far more likely to achieve desirable societal objectives than a government program aimed at picking “winners.” While occasionally effective, federal subsidies—either of the spending or tax incentive variations—precede the attainment of their stated purpose and all too often support activities which reflect political influence rather than the actual attainment of their stated objective. By contrast, a prize only imposes a governmental fiscal obligation if the objective for which it was created is achieved. Success is the condition precedent to the award.

It could be argued that a proposal to perpetuate the consumption of oil, even at reduced levels, should not warrant federal beneficence. According to this logic, only ending our petroleum-based economy would justify governmental support. While one might agree with the ultimate objective of ending our reliance on oil, it is at the same time foolhardy to present the perfect as the enemy of the good. As Philip J. Deutch points out in the November/December 2005 issue of *Foreign Policy*, there are practical obstacles which stand in the way of this goal being achieved soon. Furthermore, reducing oil consumption is not in conflict with the development of alternative fuel sources. As an element of a larger policy mix, a reduction in our dependence on oil has a complementary role to play in attaining longer term policy objectives.

In fact, looking at average fleet-wide fuel economy, the introduction of automobile transportation at 100 miles per gallon translates into the ability to travel nearly 5 times a given distance on a tank of gas. Current automobile gasoline consumption levels of 8.9 million barrels per day could ultimately be replaced by a fleet of NOPEC vehicles which would reduce consumption to about 1.8 million barrels a day. Assuming a constant relationship between reduced gasoline consumption and carbon dioxide emissions, commensurate reductions in the level of auto pollution could also result from this modest proposal.

Meeting Energy Challenges

It is imperative that federal energy policy embody appropriate incentives to respond to the challenges which lie ahead in our energy future. The growth of both the Chinese and Indian economies presents the specter of rising global demand for oil. Political exigencies such as Venezuelan unrest, veiled supply disruption threats by Iran, and the attempted attack on the Saudi pipelines by al Qaeda should serve as a wake-up call to all of us.

The uncertainty concerning our energy future affects not only our economic “life-blood” but our national security as well. American national interests must be immunized from the dictates of a

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global petroleum cartel. We must not allow our potential energy vulnerability to become the "Achilles heel" of our status as a global superpower. Our ability to pursue our interests and promote our values in the conduct of American foreign policy must not be encumbered by our petroleum dependency.

The good news is that we have arrived at a point of confluence where our energy, environmental, and national security interests all point to the need for a common solution. A new coalition ranging from Greens to those concerned with the national security threat posed by our oil addiction is now possible. The challenge before us transcends traditional ideological barriers and it is in this spirit that I offer a proposal which will hopefully contribute to a much needed rethinking of our national energy policy.

If you have questions or comments about NOPEC or other pending legislation, please visit our website at www.lungren.house.gov and send me an e-mail. I welcome your input and I look forward to discussing this and other issues with you at one of our upcoming Town Hall meetings.

If you need assistance with a federal matter, please call my Gold River office at (916) 859-9906. My staff and I are always available to address your concerns, answer your questions, and listen to your ideas.

Have a wonderful and safe summer!

Sincerely,



Daniel E. Lungren

Member of Congress

Please join us at one of our upcoming Town Hall meetings!

Wednesday, August 16
7:00 pm to 9:00pm
Galt City Hall
380 Civic Drive
Galt, CA 95632

Saturday, August 19
10:00 am to Noon
Jackson Civic Center
33 Broadway
Jackson, CA 95642

Wednesday, August 23

7:00 pm to 9:00pm

Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse

7997 California Avenue

Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Constituent Advocacy Workshop

Friday, July 28

5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Gibbons Room, La Sierra Community Center

5330 Gibbons Dr.

Carmichael, CA 95608

Please join my staff and representatives from the Social Security Administration (SSA) and the Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program (HICAP) for a discussion on Social Security and Medicare application procedures, general qualifications and guidelines.

For more information, please contact Oliver Chu of my district office in Gold River at (916) 859-9906.

Contact Information

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